

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 CTME-00 /098 W
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R 121628Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9590
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY FOR MIKE SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT
SUBJECT: TEXTILES: UNCTAD REPORT

REF: HONG KONG 5912

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, MISSION AIRPOUCHING COPY SUBJECT REPORT HONG KONG (UNCTAD DOCUMENT TD/B/C.2/192).
2. MISSION AIRPOUCHED FOR NORMAL DISTRIBUTION WASHINGTON 30 COPIES ON OR ABOUT APRIL 27 (DATE RECEIVED BY MISSION).
3. ISSUANCE OF REPORT SEEMS TO BE A "VOLUNTARY" EFFORT BY UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, NOT SPECIFICALLY CALLED FOR EITHER BY COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES OR TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. WHILE AGENDA OF 8TH SESSION OF COMMITTEE (JULY 1977) DID CONTAIN A SPECIFIC ITEM ON TRADE IN TEXTILES (ITEM 3(A)(II)), AGENDA FOR THE 9TH SESSION, AS APPROVED BY BOTH THE COMMITTEE AND TDB, CONTAINED NO SUCH ITEM. SECRETARIAT HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF A BROADER AGENDA ITEM

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(4A - IMPROVING ACCESS TO MARKETS) TO JUSTIFY ISSUANCE OF REPORT, EVEN THOUGH THE FOUR SUB-ITEMS UNDER THIS ENTRY (DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TARIFF RECLASSIFICATION, STANDSTILL, AND ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE MEASURES) DO NOT APPEAR TO ENCOMPASS SUCH A REPORT (SEE TD/B/C.2/189). IT WILL BE RECALLED

THAT DISCUSSION OF TRADE IN TEXTILES IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURES WAS INCONCLUSIVE AND DID NOT ENVISAGE ANY FURTHER UNCTAD ACTION (SEE TD/B/663). THUS, THIS APPEARS BE YET ANOTHER AND CLEAR CASE OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT EXCEEDING THE MANDATE GIVEN IT BY THE MEMBER STATES.

4. REPORT, WHICH IS FAIRLY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF MFA IMPACT ON WORLD TEXTILE TRADE THROUGH 1976 AND OF ISSUES INVOLVED IN SUBSEQUENT MFA EXTENSION EXERCISE, CONCLUDES THAT MFA FAILED UNDER STRAINS IMPOSED BY RECESSION; CITING AS EVIDENCE AUSTRALIAN TARIFF QUOTA ACTIONS ON TEXTILES, CANADIAN ARTICLE XIX ACTIONS AND, FINALLY, EC'S SUCCESSFUL DRIVE FOR "REASONABLE DEPARTURE" PROVISION IN PROTOCOL OF EXTENSION.

5. REPORT, WHICH HAS RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN EUROPEAN PRESS, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE USED (INDEED, IT MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED FOR THIS PURPOSE) AS SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING EXPORTING COUNTRIES ATTACK ON EC BILATERALS WHEN THEY COME UNDER TSB REVIEW.

6. STATE FTD SHOULD INSURE THAT APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL IN WASHINGTON AGENCIES INTERESTED IN TEXTILE MATTERS SHOULD RECEIVE COPIES IF NOT ALREADY DISTRIBUTED.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: TEXTILES, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 12 may 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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